



Vicenza mourns loss of warrior

By Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

The Vicenza military community gathered to honor a fallen Soldier in the Caserma Ederle Chapel Tuesday.

Cpl. Matthew P. Steyart, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom VI in Afghanistan.

"Most people test the water first to see how cold it is," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Pier, who served with Steyart in 1st Platoon of Legion Company in Afghanistan. "Corporal Steyart jumped right in with both feet."

Pier praised Steyart for his preparedness and professionalism as well.

"He proved over and over again that he belonged in Legion Company. He, on countless occasions, showed to his leadership that he had what it took to make sure that every mission got

accomplished in Afghanistan," said Pier. "He was constantly prepared for each and every patrol.

"He wanted to help out as much as he could with every civil affairs mission they undertook, in every village visited."

Pier said the Soldiers of Legion Company grew close in Afghanistan and developed nicknames for each other, which lead to the creation of "Sunshine" – Steyart's nickname.

"He would never let his comrades go without a smile and never let them feel down," said Pier. "He always brought out the best in them, and they know he is looking down, smiling on them all."

Steyart is survived by his mother, Nancy Steyart, his sisters, Denise Lloyd and Cathy Tuggle and his brother Robert.

A photo of Cpl. Matthew Steyart, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), is displayed during his memorial service Tuesday at the post chapel. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th ATC Photo Lab)



Sky Soldiers honored for actions in combat

By Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell
Combined Task Force Bayonet
Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Six Soldiers from the 173d Airborne Brigade received high honors during an awards ceremony Wednesday at Kandahar Airfield.

Three Silver Stars and three Purple Hearts were presented to Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment (Airborne) and the 74th Long Range Surveillance Detachment for actions taken and injuries sustained during Operation Enduring Freedom VI.

Silver Stars were presented to Staff Sgt. Matthew Blaskowski and Staff Sgt. Christopher Choay, Chosen Company, 2-503d, and Staff Sgt. Patrick Brannan, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-503d, by

Gen. John Abizaid, commander, U.S. Central Command, for actions taken during a battle May 3 near Baluc-Kalay in Zabul Province.

Staff Sgt. Jose Magana, Chosen Company, 2-503d, Sgt. Jose Mondragon and Spc. Kirk Schmitz, both 74th LRS, received Purple Hearts during the ceremony.

Choay, modest about receiving the award for gallantry, credited his squad and fellow paratroopers for their actions taken that day during the fire fight.

"It's really about your buddy to your left and right," said Choay. "Take care of them. It's a very big responsibility. We've all got family members or loved ones, or something motivating to go home to."

"As long as you take of your buddy... the mission will be accomplished, and we'll all go home."



During a ceremony held Wednesday at Kandahar Airfield, Gen. John Abizaid, CENTCOM commander, congratulates Staff Sgt. Matthew Blaskowski, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment (Airborne) on receiving the Silver Star for gallantry in combat during a fire fight May 3 in Zabul Province. Standing beside Blaskowski, and also receiving Silver Stars, are Staff Sgt. Patrick Brannan and Staff Sgt. Christopher Choay, also with 2-503d Inf (Abn). During the ceremony, Staff Sgt. Jose Magana, Chosen Company, 2-503d Inf (Abn), Sgt. Jose Mondragon and Spc. Kirk Schmitz, both 74th Long Range Surveillance, also received Purple Hearts. Left: Silver Stars and Purple Hearts are prepared for presentation to Soldiers from the 173d Airborne Brigade prior to an awards ceremony held Wednesday at Kandahar Airfield. (Photos by Spc. Jon Arguello, TF Bayonet Public Affairs)



School Winter Concert

The Vicenza Middle and High School will be holding their winter concert on Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the school gymnasium at 7 p.m.

The concert will feature the intermediate and advanced bands, middle school chorus, high school chorus, and string ensemble.

The Vicenza military community is invited to attend.

Young lieutenant gets his star

By Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

1st Lt. David Bernstein may have been killed in action two years ago, but the Army and his fellow Soldiers never forgot about him or his actions the day of his passing.

Capt. John McDougall, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), served with Bernstein, who was the executive officer of Charlie Company in Iraq and related the story of what happened.

"On the 18th of October in 2003, Charlie Company responded to what they believed was a rocket firing point based on a calculated trajectory," said McDougall, who said the company believed the rocket fire was originating from a town just south of Kirkuk. "The Charlie Company commander, along with his men and Bernstein went to investigate."

On the way to the suspected site, Charlie Company was ambushed by insurgents using small arms fire, which resulted in Bernstein's vehicle flipping over on a berm and throwing the driver out and pinning him underneath.

Bernstein's gunner was also shot in the back.

"Lt. Bernstein, already shot in the leg, gets out of the vehicle while still taking fire and came around the side to attempt to free the pinned driver," said McDougall. "Bernstein revved the engine, got the vehicle up the berm and freed the driver."

Meanwhile, the other vehicle in the convoy put down the attack.

"They called a medivac for Bernstein, but

it was too late, he bled out right there," said McDougall. "After the event, the chain of command looked at what happened and wanted to award him the Silver Star for bravery in action."

Two years after that day, Bernstein's family received a Silver Star award on his behalf in a small ceremony held at his parent's home in Vonore, Tennessee.

McDougall joined Lt. Col. Harry Tunnell, Bernstein's battalion commander in Iraq, for the ceremony and presentation of the award.

The community showed their support for the Bernstein family by turning out in force for the event, including retired officers and even the local chapter of the American Legion to perform as the Color Guard for the ceremony.

"The family was very pleased, I believe," said McDougall about the family's reaction to the event. "I think they were very grateful that we would make this trip to do the presentation."

McDougall said presenting the Silver Star two years after Bernstein's death made it possible to celebrate the actions of their son, instead of it being presented during the funeral while the grieving process was just beginning.

"The one thing I told them was 'Sir, ma'am, there are dozens of [Soldiers] who would love to be here if they could,'" said McDougall. "But they're all in Afghanistan, and I was the one who had the privilege to do this. I know those men would do anything to be able to be here today."

"Dave is not forgotten."

WANTED

If you have any information pertaining to the following individual, please contact the Criminal Investigation Division at 634-7723 or via email at cid.vicenza@setaf.army.mil.

DESCRIPTION – AGE: 20-30 years, HEIGHT: Approximately 6 feet, BUILD: Thin, HAIR: Dark, EYE COLOR: Unknown, COMPLEXION: Tan/Olive, RACE: Unknown, VEHICLE DATA: Rides an old black bicycle, vintage model. OTHER INFORMATION: Suspect wore a "hoody"



and corduroys. Suspect was in the area of the walking tunnel adjacent to Pale Contra Della Caimperta, Vicenza.

Using What God Gave You

The USAG Vicenza Chaplain's Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, is writing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, "The Purpose-Driven Life," by Pastor Rick Warren.

The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation, which they can use for weekly discussion and to hopefully deepen their spiritual connection during the separation.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Sheil
Vicenza Community Catholic Pastor

What has God given us?

Everything – life, family, talents, abilities, freedom to choose – the list is long.

What we do with what God has given us, how we use it, is pretty much up to us. Each of us in our own way is made for greatness, although what this greatness is might be open to discussion. There is no doubt that each of us is called to live by some pretty high standards, and just how we respond to this call is our choice. When we are living in a manner that, deep in our hearts, we know is right, we are at peace with ourselves, even though we might be in situations that are anything but peaceful.

To every situation, every relationship that we face, we bring what is deep within us – our fundamental attitudes, our values, our goals. These have a strong influence on how we face what is going on around us.

While our values begin when we are very young, we constantly evaluate and develop them as we go through life. How we deal with each situation we face influences how we deal with what comes next.

We can also make serious changes in our values, especially when we face situations that are dangerous or even life-threatening. These provide us with the opportunity to take a serious look at how we are living and choosing, and where we are headed.

None of this happens in a vacuum.

Our faith, in its various forms, but mostly our freely chosen experience of our personal relationship with God, reminds us we are not alone. We let ourselves, whatever situation we are in, speak to us of God and point us towards God – often in ways that are surprising.

In war we experience the level of depravity to which any of us can descend. When we lose our sense of connectedness with someone beyond us; when we begin to see ourselves as separate from everyone else, we can do terrible things to each other.

When we are somehow in touch with the good that is hidden in each of us, we are capable of the greatest acts of compassion and courage. One of the things Soldiers are very good at is helping people who cannot help themselves. While we might feel a bit uncomfortable in putting it in these words, we are making good use of what God gives us. When we try to help others without counting the cost to ourselves, we are making profoundly good use of what God gives us. This is a way of life for us. When we truly try to live the highest ideals of our profession, we are making very good use of what God gives us.

God is "really real" and each of us shares in his life. We believe we are alive because God is creating us, something we share with all humanity and all creation. We believe none of us is an accident, that each of us is the consequence of a thought in the mind of God.

Some have never learned this, and suffer so greatly that they have to inflict their suffering on the rest of us. We are not called to judge, but to accept, and do what has to be done in each situation we face.

In our profession we are called to higher standards than the rest of society. Each of us bears a tremendous responsibility to make the best use of what God gives us, to do our best to face every situation with honesty, integrity and courage.

Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

If you have an issue that you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly. The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

Due to the holiday break, the next CAC meeting is Jan. 25, at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: UTEP Payment Notification – Presently there is no procedure for me (the customer) to let them know I'll not be here (Leave, TDY, etc.) for a short time. A bill arrives and if the timing is just right, you end up with a late fee upon your return.

Recommendations: Have a form (like the hold mail form) that you fill out ahead of time so when you come in to pay your bill they can check and waive the late fee.

Response from the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation: Tax Relief Office billing is based on a monthly cycle that begins on the first calendar day and ends on the last calendar day of each month. Bills are forwarded to each customer between around the 15th of the following month. Example: Bills for the month of October are forwarded on Nov. 15. Bills are due for payment by the end of the month (approximately two weeks after having received the bill). A late fee of \$10 is applied to all delinquent accounts and is intended to motivate customers to make timely payments in order to manage and reduce accounts receivables and bad debt write-offs. This is consistent with business practices. Late fees are not removed for short term absences (less than 30 days).

Military or civilian personnel that will be absent for extended periods of time due to mission requirements (deployment, TDY, etc.) will not be assessed late fees. Deployment rosters are provided by command for large scale deployments. Civilian employee or military personnel that are not involved in large scale

deployments must provide copy of orders to the TRO.

Additionally, the TRO will initiate a payroll deduction, at no cost, for military personnel with balances exceeding 90 days. Customers wishing to take full advantage of the grace period during temporary absences may make payments via telephone using a credit card or arrange for an online transfer using Global Federal Credit Union (only GFCU members). Customers may request account balances, make payments or obtain information regarding their accounts by contacting the following numbers or email address:

Phone: 634-8663/7080/7905 - Commercial 0444-71-XXXX; Fax: 634-8738 - Commercial 0444-71-8738; Email: tax.relief@setaf.army.mil

Issue: Use of Football Field – Why can't the football team practice on the football field? The high school football team has been told that they can't practice on the football field because they are tearing it up. They were told to practice on the baseball fields. Those fields have many holes in them and are uneven. This resulted in six sprained ankles in three weeks. When I asked the field manager/keeper about this he was very rude to me. His solution was that I mark the holes and he'll fix them. I tried to show him the many holes and he didn't want anything to do with it. As a coach I think the safety of our children is more important than keeping the field pretty. Six sprains in three weeks is unacceptable. Next time it might be a break.

Recommendations: Let the team practice

on the football field until the other field is up to standard.

Response from DMWR: We've been very aggressive in our attempt to preserve our multi-purpose field due to the fact that during this past fiscal year our community spent close to \$80,000 to get the field up to a safe playing condition/standard. As you are probably aware, up until these improvements were made, our multi-purpose field was in a sorry state of affairs. But even with that said, we have allowed the entire high school football team to practice on the field one day a week (their discretion) and their kicking teams are allowed to practice at any time the field is available. This gives the field less wear and tear, more time to recuperate and our high school teams and post teams a quality, safe field to play on when their hosting games.

In coordination with the high school's administration, this was a mutually agreed upon decision and the high school teams are welcome to use the North 40 flag football/soccer field. Our grounds crew, facility manager and contracted sports officials inspect this field frequently throughout the week. It is used on a daily/weekly basis by our post teams and Youth Sports teams. To date we have not received a report of any injuries that have taken place on that field.

Hopefully this has answered your concerns and rest assured that if any of our fields are in an unsafe playing condition we will remedy the problem immediately.

Safety countermeasures for winter driving – Are you ready?

From the Safety Office
USAG Vicenza

These past weekends confirmed the arrival of winter and the hazards of driving when the weather and road conditions are not good. The potential for freezing rain, snow, and icy conditions can and should be expected over the next several months.

Winter driving can be inconvenient, annoying, and frustrating!

These aggravations can be minimized along with the hazards of winter weather if you are prepared and, most importantly, drive according to the conditions – meaning slow down, stay alert and drive defensively.

Be ready for the following conditions:
ICE – Expect icy conditions any time the outside air temperature reaches 40 degrees F or lower. Although water freezes at 32 degrees F, road surfaces can freeze when the air temperature drops to 40 degrees or less.

An important place to watch for this condition is on bridges. Bridge surfaces are exposed to the wind and cool off faster than the rest of the road.

You should also be alert for icy conditions on roads through shaded areas where a cold wind can freeze a wet road surface.

WHITE ICE – Snow that has been compacted during the day and has slightly melted will freeze at night. Usually this white ice can be seen on the road.

When traveling on white ice, drive very slowly. Make sure you have chains if you plan a trip to the mountains. If you get stuck in the snow and don't have chains you may be fined and will have to pay a towing fee as well.

If you don't have chains and the conditions

begin to worsen, get off the road until conditions improve and it is safe to proceed.

BLACKICE – Black ice is clear water that has frozen on black pavement. It usually forms below overpasses, on bridges, in areas that are surrounded by landscape or where water may be running across pavement.

Black ice commonly occurs in low, shaded areas and or when the road surface starts to freeze at night. You usually cannot see this ice until the vehicle is already on it.

Just because you have been driving on dry, clear pavement doesn't mean you won't hit a patch of black ice. Melting snow along the side of a highway is an excellent source for black ice.

FOG – Limited or reduced visibility is one of the most dangerous hazards of winter driving. Fog in and around Vicenza and throughout the Veneto Region can be very dangerous during the fall, winter, and spring.

Pockets of dense fog can reduce visibility down to 50 feet or less. Drivers must not out-drive the prevailing visibility.

Keep your vehicle speed and your ability to react in tact in case you come upon a potential hazard.

In fog keep your lights on dim and turn fog lights on if you have them. Be especially alert for pedestrians walking on streets and country roads during periods of reduced visibility.

School children walk on the secondary roads in the early morning hours and early afternoons – be alert for them.

Most everyone lives within 10 miles of Caserma Ederle. If you speed during hazardous conditions, or anytime for that matter, you are increasing your chances of being involved in a vehicle related accident.

The seconds or minutes you might save aren't worth the grief you will endure if you are the cause or involved in an accident.
You can avoid accidents by driving

according to the road and weather conditions and by driving defensively.
*Drive to Arrive
Better Late – Than Not at All!*

Staying safe while decorating tree

Provided by
Caserma Ederle Fire Department
Available 24/7 – Even Christmas

On the average, 400 Christmas tree fires occur yearly.

These fires cause: deaths, serious injuries, and over \$15 million in damages.

Fires are declining every year due to awareness and an increased use of artificial trees. Fire-resistant artificial trees are highly recommended by fire departments.

If you get a real tree follow these rules:

- It should not lose its needles when tapped on the ground.
- Cut one inch off the trunk then place in water immediately to help the tree absorb water.
- A six foot tree will use one gallon of water every two days.
- Check water level daily.
- Keep the tree away from floor heaters, fireplaces, or other heat sources.

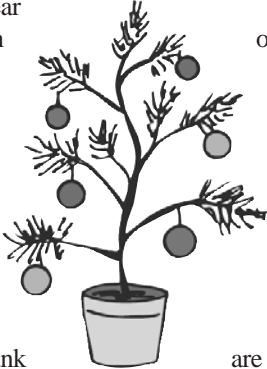
For all Christmas trees:

- Use only UL-approved lights, and

no more than three strands linked together.

- Wash your hands after handling lights and decorations due to lead dust found on most imported decorations.
- Use miniature lights, which have cool-burning bulbs.
- Turn off the Christmas lights when you sleep or leave your home.
- Never use real candles on or near an artificial or real tree.
- Ensure tinsel or artificial icicles are of non-leaded material. Lead base materials are hazardous if eaten by children or pets.
- Avoid decorations that tend to break easily or have sharp edges.
- Keep tree trimmings that are small or have removable parts out of the reach of small children. These pieces may be swallowed.
- Dispose of the tree properly. (Never burn it in the fireplace.)

Report Fires immediately to the Caserma Ederle Fire Department by calling 634-8911 or 0444-718-911. Caserma Ederle Fire Department is available 24/7 – even Christmas!



Purple Hearts awarded

Purple Heart recipient Staff Sgt. Michael Welch, left, stands with his wife and son and fellow Soldier, combat engineer and now Purple Heart recipient, Pfc. Dustin Muse, during an award ceremony held Nov. 23 at the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne) headquarters building. Both Soldiers were awarded the medal for receiving wounds from enemy fire in Afghanistan. Welch was assisting a vehicle hit by an improvised explosive device when another exploded close to him. Muse was in a vehicle hit directly by an explosive device detonated by a cellular phone. Both Soldiers have recovered from their injuries.
(Photo by Spc. Justin Nieto, SETAF Public Affairs)



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Italian soldiers brush up skills with Americans

Spc. Christopher Gomez, U. S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza, and Primo Caporal Maggiore Maurizio Usai from the 152d Regiment, Brigata Sassari, Sardinia, take part in the joint Close Combat Course held at the Luna Bubble on Caserma Ederle last week. Usai is one of the 12 Italian Soldiers who participated in the 40-hour course. The Italian regiment is getting ready to deploy to Iraq in the near future. According to tradition, the history of this Italian brigade is long and heroic since they moved from the island to defend Italy during World War I. In more recent times, the soldiers have taken part in NATO missions including Bosnia, Kosovo, and currently Iraq.

"This course has been planned to teach some techniques to some Soldiers, so when they go back to their unit they can train their colleagues," said Italian Army Sgt. Maj. Ennio Zavagno, SETAF G-3, who organized the courses along with coworker Sgt. Maj. Sergio Bondielli. "I am very proud to work with Americans because we work together almost everywhere."

"The idea of this training became reality thanks to the Italian military personnel of G-3 Training and the great support of the instructors, Sgt. [Monte] Massey for the Close Combat Course, and also the instructors for the Combat Lifesaver Course, Roy Visona', Max Scudeler and their commander, Col. [Bradley] Harper."

Below: Sgt. Monte Massey, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry (ABN) teaches the Italian and American Soldiers some techniques during the Close Combat Course in the Luna Bubble. A total of 33 Soldiers, 21 Americans and 12 Italians, participated in the course.

"It's the first time I have done a formal class with the Italians," said Massey. "This is the most excited group of guys I have seen in a long time. They enjoyed fighting; they enjoyed the competition and being warriors for a week."



A health clinic paramedic supervises some of the 21 members of the 152d Regiment, Sassari Brigade, that participated in the five-day Combat Lifesaver Course held on Caserma Ederle. In the picture, the Italian Soldiers learn the immobilization of a patient and air-way management.



Primo Caporal Maggiore Roberto Soru, is transferred to a military ambulance after receiving first aid on the field.

During the five-day course, the attendants learned skills including giving intravenous injections and treating amputations. At the end of the class, they completed a written test with questions pertaining to the classwork.



A health clinic paramedic, center, checks "patient" Caporal Maggiore Scelto Giorgio Marcucci who sits while Caporal Maggiore Scelto Alessio Mucelli holds an IV. Combat Lifesaver is new in the Italian Army, explained one of the participants in the course, Primo Caporal Maggiore Luca Mureu. "The experience with the American team was really positive and rich with information," said Mureu. "During the course we were asking all sorts of questions, but we always found a very professional response from the instructors."

Good preparation by the American staff may have been part of the successful result since

at the end of the course, all the participants passed their final tests.

"In the medical field, there is always something new to learn including techniques, therapies and equipment," said Scudeler, one of the two instructors for the course. Scudeler has been working in this field for the past 21 years. "During the course, we talked about all the experiences that we have, and we saw how interested they [participants] were in learning."



Left: Sgt. Maj. Ennio Zavagno (right), SETAF G-3 Training, helps translate while Primo Caporal Maggiore Roberto Soru acts as an injured Soldier waiting to receive assistance from his unit after being "attacked" in a scenario during the Combat Lifesaver Course.

Making Soldiers better through science

Story and photo
By Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

The equipment and vehicles many Soldiers now use to fight today's battles were once thought of a science fiction, instead of science fact.

The successes of these technologies in the battlefield have

been the indirect success of men like Michael Golden, the SETAF science advisor.

"I was able, in the early days of my career, to get the [joint task force] a piece of computer software called the Defense Collaborative Tool Suite," said Golden, who has been with SETAF for six years. "This allows them to collaborate with any one in

the world through their own Internet. SETAF was one of the first European units to get that technology."

This technology is just one example of what Golden, along with his counterparts all over the world, do for their respective commands; finding any kind of equipment and technology that would make their units better.

And the only way to do that is to talk to the "boots on the ground" and get the feedback from the troops.

"One of the first things you do is get embedded," said Golden. "You go out and watch how the JTF operates, how the D Battery guys operate their howitzers and so forth."

Not only does he observe, but Golden also interacts; asking questions of the Soldiers and their leaders about how a certain piece of equipment is performing and if it enhances the unit's lethality.

Golden says talking to the troops is not something he only does when they are training, but rather they seem to talk to him whenever possible. Even if it means stopping him in the street to do so.

"I had a young specialist, a mortar man, stop me and ask me about driving stakes in to the ground," said Golden. "He said the ground is hard and asked me if there were any better stakes I could get."

"And I knew there was an mortar automated fire control system out there being developed that would completely eliminate stakes, so I went after that," said Golden, who later contacted the company producing the technology. "I sent an email to the program manager letting him know what the Soldiers were doing. Then I asked him if there was anything in the pipeline coming down that the Soldiers could use as they were getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan."

According to Golden, the company had the equipment,

although still in the developmental stages, and was willing to let the 173d Airborne Brigade get the first crack at testing it out.

"If there is a war going on, and you're deploying, then you have people's attention," said Golden about how difficult it is to obtain the equipment for the Soldiers. The arrangement is often a win-win situation – the Soldiers get a new piece of technology to test out in their units and the respective companies supplying them receive the valuable field testing data to evaluate their products.

Golden doesn't do this alone, however. He has to work not only with the various troops, but their senior leaders, other Army civilians and even other branches of service.

"The science advisor may not be well-known to many in the community, but he is well known to most of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and SETAF staff," said Patsy Creighton, the deputy chief of force modification for SETAF, who often works closely with Golden. "He is known for his innovative ideas and research that have supported the Sky Soldiers over the last six years."

"You come to a job like this and you deal directly with the Soldiers, and you see how deep the mud gets," said Golden. "How absolutely human-factored the equipment has to be."

"The man-machine interface has to be so perfect in combat with all that stress," said Golden. "That you see how poorly-designed equipment can get people in trouble."



Michael Golden, SETAF science advisor, assists a Soldier with the wear of his prototype Modular Combat Cooling System (MCCS). Designed to be worn under a Soldier's body armor, the system is supposed to keep the trooper cool with a temperature of around 58 degrees for 2+ hours and is one of the many pieces of technology Golden is looking to bring to the deploying Soldiers.

S2S begins paving way for transitioning students

By John Zaborek
VHS Counselor

Military children face many challenges with their moves. They include, but are not limited to, adjusting socially, academically and meeting different graduation requirements. The Military Child Education Coalition has organized a program to help both DoDDS and stateside schools to better support families as they transition into their new communities.

One of the many transition programs is the Interactive Counseling Center; it provides face-to-face video conferencing among schools, students, parents, teachers and counselors. Another program just initiated and growing among DoDDS-Europe schools is the Student 2 Student program (S2S). This program involves a team of volunteer students trained by MCEC and supervised by a school staff member and the school liaison officer.

A team from Vicenza has been trained to provide leadership in training other students on methods to support students transitioning to or from their school. The focus is student centered and is student led. The Vicenza team is currently organizing, recruiting new members and developing local lesson plans customized specifically for implementation at Vicenza.

For more information contact: John Zaborek, counselor, Vicenza High School, at 634-7656 or email john.zaborek@eu.dodea.edu.

American Indian dancers perform



Sheena Anderson performs the women's fancy shawl dance at the South of the Alps Dining Facility as part of the program presented by "Great Plains Dancers" to celebrate the contributions of Native Americans Friday. The group formed by five dancers descendants of different tribes, performed several dances wearing authentic costumes.

Chere Harper, who is part Cherokee and part Comanche, and the guest speaker at the event, danced along with the "Great Plains Dancers." At the end of the performance Staff Sgt. Ricky Wise, 173d Support Battalion, talked about the hard work and determination of Native Americans who helped to protect and defend their nation. Left: John Keel, Comanche, performs a "Fancy Dance" during the celebration. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Italian holidays

Dec. 8 is an Italian holiday celebrating the Immaculate Conception. For most of the local nationals that work here on the caserma Dec. 9 is a rest day. The next Italian national holidays are Dec. 25 (Christmas Day) and Dec. 26 (St. Stephen's Day).

Seasonal markets and events in Vicenza

The following markets will be held in Vicenza through the holiday season:

Dec. 8-24 – A market is setup in Giardini Salvi selling typical products from the Trentino area.

Dec. 11 – The traditional antique market will be held in the main square from sunup to sundown. There will also be a market on contra' Santa Lucia.

Dec. 16-24 – Craft market in the Piazza Castello area.

Dec. 17-18 and 22-24 – Christmas market in the main squares of Vicenza.

Dec. 18 – Find a market on Corso Fogazzaro.

Jan. 4-6 – Three king market in the main squares of Vicenza.

Other events in Vicenza during the holiday season:

Dec. 3 – In the Salone degli Zavatterti, a room located in the Basilica in the main square downtown, opens an art exhibition by the Italian artist Novella Parigini. Entrance is free. Open Tuesday-Sunday from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m.

Dec. 8, 11, 18, 24 and Jan. 6 at 4 p.m. a show for children, "Pollicina," Thumbelina, in Piazza San Lorenzo downtown. Repeat performances will be at 5:30 p.m. In case of bad weather, the performance will take place in the Loggia del Capitaniato, located in Piazza dei Signori.

Dec. 10 – In Piazza dei Signori at 3 p.m. a Harley-Davidson rally sponsored by the Road Brothers Harley Club.

Dec. 11 – 4 p.m. in Piazza San Lorenzo "La favola di Natale," A Christmas Carol, will be performed. Repeat performance at 5:30 p.m.

Those small AIM buses that leave and return from the zones Stadium, Cricoli and Farini will run until 9 p.m. on the evenings of Dec. 8, 10, 11, 17, 18, 22, 23, Jan. 4 and 6. Dec. 24 the buses will run until 10 p.m. and Jan. 5 until 11 p.m. Taking these buses from where you "park and ride" will save the hassle of finding a parking spot downtown.

Skating, nativity scenes and tree lightings

Enjoy the temporary ice skating rink called "Ice Energy" in downtown Vicenza which opens on Dec. 8. Located behind the Basilica in the square Corte dei Bissari, the rink will be open everyday from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. In the afternoons during the week, it will be open from 3-7 p.m. On the weekends, the afternoon hours are: 2-3:30 p.m., 4-5:30 p.m., 6-8 p.m., and 9-11 p.m. Entrance fee on weekdays is: adults - 5 euro; children - 3.50 euro. Weekend costs are: adults - 7 euro, children - 5 euro. Skates are available for rent for 3 euro. There will also be a check-in booth for your packages at a cost of 50 cents per item. The rink closes on March 21.

The town of Cesenatico, located near Rimini, is an Adriatic coastal city mainly famous for its port-canal designed by Leonardo da Vinci in 1502. During this festive period, it provides a backdrop to a floating nativity, which has it's grand opening on Dec. 4. The nativity scene,

housed on a permanent display of old trading and fishing vessels, is composed of 39 life-size, handmade figures. Produced locally, these unique statues have their hands, faces, and other exposed parts in wood, while their elaborate drapes are in painted wax over a wood and metal frame. The floating nativity makes for a very impressive sight, especially at night when it is all lit up. It remains on display until Jan. 8.

The biggest Christmas tree in the world can be found in Gubbio, which every year on the evening of Dec. 7 lights the slopes of Monte Ingino. It rises from the last stone houses of Gubbio up to the Basilica of S. Ubaldo. The shining shape reproducing a fir tree – 2,624 feet high and 1,312 feet wide, appears in the Guinness book of world records. The tree, visible from the mounts of Umbertide and from the hills of Perugia, is designed using very bright neon lamps stained with different colors. The tree can be seen until Jan. 10.

Gospel singers

On Dec. 7, Cheryl Porter accompanied by the International Gospel Messengers will perform in the Cinema Teatro Super in the town of Valdagno at 8:30 p.m. Entrance is free, but during the show there will be an interval when donations will be collected for charity.

Exhibitions and markets in Italy

Thinking of giving ceramic or glass items as a gift? You may find the perfect thing in the town of Nove in Piazza De Fabris when on Dec. 8 the 7th exhibition-market of antique and modern items of ceramic and glass will take place from 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Degustazione prodotti tipici della Valpolicella e del Veronese, Gourmet flavors in Valpolicella and the Verona Area, will be held in the exhibition grounds of S. Ambrogio di Valpolicella, province of Verona, Dec. 8-11 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. each day. Find over 90 stalls with typical produce on show such as oil, cheese, rice, sausages, black truffles and the wine, all from in the Valpolicella and Verona region. Events include a honey competition, to be held on Sunday, aimed at the three main categories: apple, single-blossom and multi-blossom honey. The judges will include consumers and professional tasters. There will also be a series of tasting events, featuring local DOC wines and other local specialties. Entrance fee is 2 euro.

The 30th Bologna International Car and Motorcycle exhibition closes it's doors to the public on Dec. 11. Being held in the city's exhibition grounds, this show offers visitors a glance at the latest models of the vehicles to include the Ferrari, Audi, Skoda, Kia, Rolls Royce, the Moto Morini and the Peugeot Motorcycles. The exhibit is open weekdays 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and weekends 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Entrance fee is: adults - 23 euro, children 7-14 - 19 euro, children younger than 6 are free. For more information on events and test drives, consult www.motorshow.it

The Christmas market in Mirano, province of Venice, will be held Dec. 10-11 and 18. To be held in the setting of Piazza Martiri, this square will be filled by wooden stalls covered with white canvas, as was the custom in the early 20th century, decorated with lights. The fair includes performances of a puppet theater at 3:30 p.m. and at 4:30 p.m. performances of street artists.

Events in Verona: Exhibition grounds Dec. 10-11 there will be an international dog show. In the Piazza Bra area the Santa Lucia market will be held Dec. 10-13 with over 360 stalls from 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. each day.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Dec. 6	Closed	
Dec. 7	Just Like Heaven (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Dec. 8	Just Like Heaven (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Dec. 9	North Country (R)	7 p.m.
	Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)	10 p.m.
Dec. 10	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG)	4 p.m.
	Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)	7 p.m.
	North Country (R)	10 p.m.
Dec. 11	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG)	4 p.m.
	Flightplan (PG-13)	7 p.m.
Dec. 12	Closed	

Camp Darby Theater

Dec. 8	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG)	7 p.m.
Dec. 9	Serenity (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 10	The Greatest Game Every Played (PG-13)	6 p.m.
Dec. 11	Roll Bounce (PG-13)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

NORTH COUNTRY - *Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand* - True story centered on Lori Jenson, who took a job at a Minnesota iron mine in 1975. She and other female miners endured harassment from male co-workers, ranging from verbal taunts to pornographic graffiti and worse. Jenson eventually filed suit in 1984 and won a landmark legal decision.

THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE - *Laura Linney, Tom Wilkinson* - In an extremely rare decision, the Catholic Church officially recognized the demonic possession of a 19 year-old college freshman. Told in flashbacks, "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" chronicles the haunting trial of the priest accused of negligence resulting in the death of the young girl believed to be possessed and the lawyer who takes on the task of defending him.

TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE - *Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham-Carter* - Set in a 19th century European village, this stop-motion, animated feature follows the story of Victor, a young man who is whisked away to the underworld and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride, while his real bride, Victoria, waits bereft in the land of the living. Although life in the Land of the Dead proves to be a lot more colorful than his strict Victorian upbringing, Victor learns that there is nothing in this world, or the next, that can keep him away from his one true love.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

Baseball for high school boys here in Vicenza

Palladio Baseball of Vicenza has invited the Caserma Ederle young men from age 14 (with their 15th birthday in 2006) to age 20, particularly high school students, to play for their association in the Italian "Under 21" league.

At this very early date Youth Services is looking for young men interested in joining. To play in the 2006 Italian Baseball season, players must commit to play by the end of January.

Mike Lococo, Army Career and Alumni Program, is the organizer and point of contact. He can be reached at the following: 634-7189, 347-030-7893 or Michael.Lococo@setaf.army.mil for more information.

Adopt a Pet

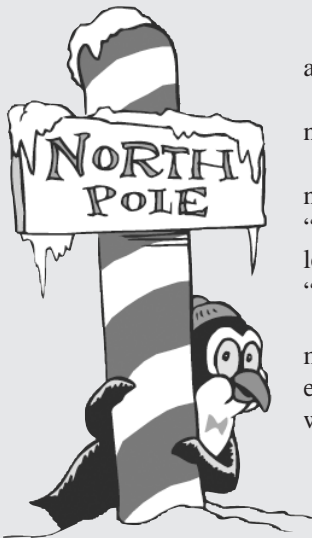
The Veterinarian Clinic has a cat up for adoption.

It is a grey and white 6-month-old male kitten. He is very friendly and gets along with other cats and also dogs. The \$35 adoption fee covers Leukemia testing, neutering, microchipping, and the rabies vaccination as well as a series of three respiratory vaccines.

People interested in adopting this kitten can call the vet clinic at 635-4841 or 0444-71-4841.



Let t e r s, e m a i l s t o s a n t a



It's that time of year again when Santa looks forward to receiving the lists and letters of holiday wishes from good boys and girls all over the world.

And once again this year, Santa has asked Stars and Stripes to publish the names of the good little boys and girls that write to him.

Children whose wish lists are received before Saturday will have their names published on a special page in European Stars and Stripes called "News from the North Pole" – and they might even receive a postcard or letter from St. Nick himself. A different list of names will be printed in the "News from the North Pole" each day, Dec. 19, 20 and 21.

We all know that Santa is very busy this time of year, so families should make sure children get that wish list off to Santa right away! Of course, Santa encourages teachers and students to send their class lists, as well! All email wish lists should be addressed to: santac@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Wish lists may also be mailed to Santa at: **Santa Claus
North Pole
APO AE 09211**

Holiday Season Arrives with tree lighting festivities



Photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Left: Community members gather for the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of the Ederle Theater Friday. CJTF-76 Commander Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya hit the switch to light the tree by video teleconference live from Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan, visible on the screen at right.



Fourth-graders in Vicenza Elementary School teacher Patricia Salerno's class perform a traditional Christmas carol during the Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony. They were just one of many classes that performed during the event.

Below: A recreation employee dressed up as a Christmas Tree shapes balloon toys for the different children participating in the fest.



Camp Darby lights up tree



Children sing at the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in Camp Darby's Freedom Square Friday. "This is my first time ever presenting a tree lighting ceremony, I am honored by the great participation of the community to this event" said Lt. Col. Stephen Sicinski, commander, USAG Livorno. The tree was donated by the Province of Pistoia as a symbol of friendship. (Photo by Chiara Mattiolo, USAG Livorno Public Affairs)

'Tis the Season

Cast members rehearse in the Soldiers' Theatre lobby for the annual Christmas show titled, *'Tis the Season*. The show will be presented at Club Veneto Friday at 7 p.m. and again Saturday and Sunday at 4 p.m. *'Tis the Season* features a collection of holiday stories, songs and dances. More than 20 selections are highlighted in the show and include *The Little Match Girl*, *Better not sit On the Grampire's Knee*, *Christmas in Key West* and *The Twelve Thank You Notes of Christmas*. Songs include *Sleigh Bells*, *Count Your Blessings* and *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas*. "There is a lot of diversity in the show with dancing, singing and some story telling," said John Beamish, who plays the character, 'Grampire.' "I usually build the sets, but this time Bonnie [Daniels] talked me into acting." Also, 10-year-old Kameron Rashid is into acting. "This is my third play. I enjoy acting," Other performers include: Jennifer Adams, sisters Anna, Deb and Sarah Beauchamp, Dana Bowyer, Bizzy Buffington, Linda Dahlstrom, Chrystal Davey, Kathy Joseph, Sheri Mahadeo, Rosie Malone, Erica Mellon, April Petersen, Ross Daniels, Michele Taylor and Luigi Dalla Vecchia. *'Tis the Season* is directed by Ross and Bonnie Daniels; choreographed by Linda Dahlstrom; with musical direction by Aaron Talley and musical accompaniment by Anna Pittaro. A holiday reception follows each performance where the audience will have the opportunity to meet with the cast and crew and enjoy homemade holiday treats. Carmen Kamiya and Anna Fantacone will host the receptions. Tickets may be purchased by calling Soldiers' Theatre at 634-7281 and are also available one hour prior to the show at Club Veneto.

